

RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

President Eisenhower has made an excellent choice in naming Allen W. Dulles as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. This is one of the most sensitive posts in the entire federal structure, for the job of C. I. A. is to receive and evaluate intelligence from abroad; and the wisdom and foresight of our own governmental policies must obviously be dependent in some degree on the efficiency of the C. I. A. in carrying out its task.

Allen Dulles is experienced in the broad field of foreign affairs, having been a member of the diplomatic service for a decade during and after the First World War (and in more recent years president of the Council on Foreign Relations here in New York). He is also experienced in the delicate field of secret intelligence, having served with distinction in the Office of Strategic Services during the Second World War. He is one of the relatively few Americans who have devoted a significant amount of their time to the study and operation of this complex subject. He was chairman of a special Presidential commission in 1948 that, after examining the role of the C. I. A. and its relationship to other governmental intelligence agencies, came up with a set of recommendations that have had their effect on our present intelligence structure.

Although he had gone back to his law practice at the close of the recent war, Mr. Dulles again accepted the call of public service and returned to Washington more than two years ago to devote his full time to the C. I. A., of which he has been deputy director for the past seventeen months. It is noteworthy that Mr. Dulles is a civilian; and as such it may not be too much to hope that he is taking this important post as a long-term if not permanent assignment. His appointment should prove a stimulus to that *esprit de corps* so necessary if the intelligence service is to develop, as it ought, on a career basis. The process has already begun, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, retiring C. I. A. chief, indicated the other day when he observed that the organization is building up a group of career officers that "in a few years will become the best in the world." The naming of a high-ranking Army officer as Mr. Dulles' deputy is also commendable in view of the close connection between the work of the C. I. A. and of the armed forces. Altogether, the outlook for a purposeful and imaginative development of our intelligence service is excellent.

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